



COUNTY OF MERCER
Workforce Investment Board
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Disability Issues Committee ♦ June 18, 2014
MCTS (Sypek Center) - 1:00 p.m.

Present: Dr. Kimberly Schneider- *Chairperson* (MCTS), Liz Flynn (MCSSSD), Tanji Gilliam (Trenton Housing Authority), Dave Hire (MCTS/MCSSSD), Dr. Denalerie Johnson-Faniel (Consultant), Mary Ann Muller (MCSSSD), David Nash (MCTS), Lori Perlow (MCTS), Thomas E. Shaw-Gardner (MC Office of the Disabled), Greg Skelley (TLD-Rutgers), Marci Tandy (MCTS), Dana Hice-DePugh (MCTS)

Staff: Beverly Mills, Maribel Duarte

Dr. Schneider welcomed the group and provided a brief synopsis of committee's purpose.

Round-table introductions were made.

- The group was treated to (2) presentations by MCTS students:
 - Daniel Montero demonstrated the art of napkin folds; he won 3rd place in the Skills USA competition
 - Albert Mendez and Tamara Lively did a food demonstration (white bean bruschetta)

MCTS Admissions

- A time-share recruitment video was viewed; there was positive feedback
 - An on-line application was introduced last year
 - MCTS has articulation agreements with Mercer County Community College
 - As of today, they have received 1,075 applications for the 2014-2015 academic school year; a 20% increase from last year
- MCTS meets with counselors from all districts on a monthly basis to encourage dual enrollments
- The office of Civil Rights visited the school last year to monitor program and ensure that they can be explored by and available to all students, regardless of presence of a disability; this will eliminate disabled students being overrepresented in certain programs.
 - Disabled students make up over 60% of the population at the Sypek Center and about 30% at the Assunpink Center.
- Social media is being utilized to advertise MCTS (i.e. radio announcements on station Power 99)

Community Outreach / Partnerships

- New partnerships are developed with the Boys and Girls Club, as well as Trenton Housing Authority to address the issue of poor enrollment from the Trenton School district; MCTS will go on-site to make presentations to students and parents
- Student mentors, along with “shadow days” will be utilized to reach out to potential enrollees
- Tours of the schools are available/scheduled in the evenings and weekends to maximize visits
- MCTS is partnering with Arc Mercer with the goal of getting their population out of “sheltered workshop” settings and into community settings for their work experience component
- MCCC (JKC) has developed an auto-tech program; MCTS will develop courses to prepare students to enter program
- MCSSSD receives funding from the One Stop Career Center via its WIA funding to fund employment opportunities for students
- Dave Nash is developing an “Employer Coalition” as a forum to get employers to recognize the untapped potential of students and access job opportunities

Review of April 24, 2014 Minutes

- Name correction: Thomas E. Shaw-Gardner
- Dr. Denalerie Johnson-Faniel made 1st motion to approve minutes
- Thomas E. Shaw-Gardner made 2nd motion to approve minutes
- Tom has been sharing employment opportunities with Bev & MCTS
- Bev will reach out to Raj (of DVR) to come to future meeting to discuss her employer list
FYI: Helen Liu will be replacing Melvin Crawford as the Director of DVR at the One Stop

NJ DOLWD

- There are new Talent Network Coordinators (TNC)
 - Bob Crawford no longer the Financial TNC
 - Greg Skelley is the new Transportation, Logistics, Distribution TNC; he provided brief overview of his sector and their needs
- LWD developed pamphlets of the TN sectors; a web version will be available on their website

MCTS Website

- Maryann highlighted the website and how to access

Strategic Planning Grid

- Dr. Schneider gave background of strategic planning session held last year; the grid is the finished product to be used as a guide to ensure goals are being met
 - Dr. Schneider assured the committee that we are on track for *Year 3*
- Tom will send Julie Wilmot (County Communications) success stories to feature online
- Tom made 1st motion to approve the grid; Dr. Schneider made the 2nd motion too approve the grid
- Committee was asked to bring the grid to every meeting to refer to it

Award Nominations

- Nominations for students and employers will be available and reviewed at the August meeting
- Awardees will be acknowledged at the WIB Board meeting on October 28, 2014

NEXT MEETING

AUGUST 5, 2014 (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.) ♦ MERCER HIGH SCHOOL –(Board Room)